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MR. LEO E. MILLER of the American Museum of Natural History gave an illustrated lecture before the Linnaean Society of New York on March 13 entitled "A Bird's-eye View of South America." Mr. Miller's lecture was based on the experiences of his zoölogical trips in South America. The present number of the *Review* contains the first of two articles on one of these trips, up the Orinoco in 1912-13. The March, 1916, number had an article from his pen entitled "The Descent of the Rio Gy-Paraná," which gave an account of his activities on the Roosevelt-Rondon expedition of 1914.

HON. ROBERT STERLING YARD of the newly created National Parks Service spoke on March 17 before the Geographical Society of Philadelphia on "Our National Parks." Previous reference to this speaker and the government bureau with which he is connected was made in the February *Review* (p. 155).

#### OBITUARY

COLONEL CHARLES CHAILLÉ-LONG died on March 24 at Virginia Beach near Norfolk, Va., in his seventy-fifth year. He was best known to geographers for his explorations in the upper Nile basin. As an officer of the Egyptian army and chief of staff of General (then Lieutenant Colonel) Gordon he conducted an expedition in 1874 from Gondokoro ( $5^{\circ}$  N.) on the upper Nile to Lake Victoria, on which his route first paralleled the Nile in a south-southeastward direction to Dufle ( $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N.), then led south cross-country to the river's bend at Foweira ( $2\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  N.), and thence south to the northern shore of Lake Victoria at Murchison Bay. On his return he traveled northeast until he struck the Nile, here the outlet of Lake Victoria, at Urondogani ( $\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  N.). Above this point the river had been explored up to the lake by Speke on his memorable voyage in 1862. Chaillé-Long now descended the river, which soon entered a large swamp-bordered and *sudd*-infested lake, which he named Lake Ibrahim (now known as Lake Choga). Finally an outlet was found, which proved to be the Nile, and this was descended to Foweira, whence the return was made overland to Gondokoro. By this trip the identity, already conjectured, of the Victoria Nile with the river, discovered by Baker in 1864, which issued from Lake Albert, was definitely established and a new lake discovered in the system of reservoir-lakes which are the main feeders of the great river. In recognition of these additions to geographical knowledge the Charles P. Daly Medal was awarded by this Society in 1910 to Colonel Chaillé-Long (see the account in *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 42, 1910, pp. 205-207).

In 1875 Colonel Chaillé-Long made another trip from Gondokoro which led him west-southwest along the Congo-Nile divide region, carrying him across the upper tributaries of the Bahr-el-Ghazal system to a point connecting with the farthest southeast of Schweinfurth's route in 1870. The most important of Colonel Chaillé-Long's geographical works are "Central Africa: Naked Truths of Naked People," with route map, New York, 1877; "Les Sources du Nil," Paris, 1891; "L'Égypte et Ses Provinces Perdues," Paris, 1892 (the Society's copy bears author's autograph).

MR. WILLARD D. JOHNSON, long connected with the U. S. Geological Survey as topographer, died in Washington on February 13 at the age of fifty-seven. His first work on the Survey was under G. K. Gilbert in 1879-80, on Lake Bonneville. He was appointed assistant topographer in the Topographic Branch in 1882, and continued in that branch of the service until 1896, working his way up through the various grades. From 1888 to 1890 he was in charge of the topographic surveys of the drainage basin of the Arkansas River in Colorado. In 1891 he was placed in charge of the California office of the Survey, which position he held for three years. He was one of the charter members and director of the Sierra Club in 1892. In 1895 he accompanied as topographer the hazardous expedition of the Bureau of Ethnology under W. J. McGee to study the Seri Indians, a savage tribe inhabiting Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California and the opposite mainland in Sonora, Mexico (see W. J. McGee: The Seri Indians, *17th Ann. Rept. Bureau of Amer. Ethnol.*, 1895-96, Pt. I, pp. 1-344\* [duplicate pagination], and W. J. McGee and W. D. Johnson: Seriland, *Natl. Geogr. Mag.*, Vol. 7, 1896, pp. 125-133). Mr. Johnson joined the Water Resources Branch of the Survey in 1897, working in Oklahoma on the underflow water of the Arkansas River and allied problems of the Great Plains. As a result of this work he published an extended report on "The High Plains and Their Utilization" (*21st and 22nd Am. Repts. U. S. Geol. Survey*, 1899-1901, Pt. IV in each, pp. 601-741 and 631-669, respectively). From 1901 to 1904 he was in Utah. In 1905 he changed from topography to geology, and took up work in the Sierra Nevadas, studying chiefly the glacial geology. As a result of these studies, he formulated his theory of *bergschrunds* (see W. H. Hobbs: Characteristics of Existing Glaciers, New York, 1911, pp. 15-17, with references). Later, in 1907, he studied the displacements of the earthquake of 1872 in Owens Valley, but

his efforts were very much hampered by illness. During 1912, 1913, and part of 1914, his health did not permit steady work, but in the spring of 1914 he came to Washington, and was given the position of geographer in the Forest Service at Portland, Oregon. He left there and returned to Washington in 1916 and, in ill health, was confined in a hospital. He was released from there during the summer of 1916, and was working on a model of the Grand Canyon at the time of his death.

Mr. Johnson had unusual ability as a teacher of the science of topographic engineering and untiring energy in every work he undertook. While connected with the Topographic Branch he did perhaps more than any other topographer to improve the methods of topographic map-making to its present high standard. He seemed to have no thought for anything but the advancement of the scientific work of the Geological Survey, sacrificing his health, pleasures, and means to that end. He invented and patented about 1887 a new style of plane-table tripod, known as the "Johnson Plane-Table Movement," the advantages of which were so evident that it was at once adopted by the Geological Survey, and it has been the standard in use since patented. He waived his royalty to the government for all tripods needed. Another invention which he gave to the government is the paper-holding thumb-screws for use in plane-table boards. Thousands of these have been made for the Survey, and they are now standard equipment for such purposes all over the United States. Many other devices and methods proposed by him have had their effect on all the topographic work of the Geological Survey for the past thirty years.

Mr. Johnson's keen appreciation of topographic forms found graphical expression in his maps. Possibly the best examples of these are the admirable map of Seriland, 1:380,160 (Pl. 1, Pt. I, *17th Ann. Rept. Bureau of Amer. Ethnol.*), a pen-and-ink drawing of great delicacy, and the map of the High Plains, 1:6,000,000 (Pl. CXIII, Pt. IV, *21st Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Survey*), with relief in shading, which is the best general representation of the region.